



Autumn 2005



Winter Weather Terms

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While the focus of this edition of the **Scribe** has been on the autumn season, now is a good time to remember that winter weather is right around the corner. We are also all familiar with the widespread havoc winter weather can bring to the Natural State. As in the spring and summer months...we always appreciate and need your reports. We are always interested in snowfall amounts, icing, sleet or even blizzard conditions. Your reports will be used to issue, verify or even cancel winter watches, warnings or advisories and may help save lives. The National Weather Service issues a variety of winter weather watches, warnings and advisories to keep you safe. Definitions include:

Winter Storm Watch: A winter storm watch will be issued when the possibility of heavy snow, significant ice or blizzard conditions exists.

Winter Storm Warning: A winter storm warning will be issued when heavy snow, significant ice or blizzard conditions are occurring or are imminent.

Blizzard Warning: A blizzard warning will be issued when the expected visibility will be less than 1/4 of a mile in falling snow. Winds must be in excess of 35 mph for an hour or more.

Heavy Snow Warning: A heavy snow warning will be issued when 4 inches of snow in 12 hours or less or 6 inches of snow in 24 hours or less is expected.

Ice Storm Warning: An ice storm warning will be issued when freezing rain or drizzle will result in widespread ice accumulations of 1/4 of an inch or greater.

Snow Advisory: A snow advisory will be issued for a snowfall of 3 inches or less or for the first snowfall of the season. The snow could cause driving or other significant problems.

Blowing Snow Advisory: Issued when localized or widespread blowing snow reduces visibility to 1/4 or a mile or less. Winds must be under 35 mph. Drifting snow often results.

Freezing Rain/Freezing Drizzle Advisory: Issued when freezing rain or drizzle is expected for a brief period without widespread accumulations but will result in dangerous driving or walking conditions.

Wind Chill Advisory: This will be issued when wind chills are expected to be low enough to pose a threat to human safety. The threshold value is zero degrees or colder for 3 hours or more.

Freezing Fog Advisory: Issued when the air temperature is below freezing and fog is widespread. Problems occur when the fog deposits a thin layer of ice on bridges and overpasses.

